

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-25, and 27-33 without prejudice, and amend Claims 4, 16, and 26 as indicated below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~data-carrier~~device comprising:

receiving means for receiving a modulated carrier signal
which contains an encoded data signal, said encoded data signal including decoding
instruction information;

a power supply capable of generating an operating voltage from the modulated
carrier signal;

demodulation means for demodulating the received modulated carrier signal and
for outputting the encoded data signal contained therein,

decoding means for decoding the encoded data signal and for outputting a data
signal,

data processing means for processing the data output by the decoding means and
powered by the power supply,

the decoding means including at least a first physical decoding stage and a second
physical decoding stage, the first decoding stage being arranged to decode said data
signal encoded in conformity with a first decoding method whereas the second decoding
stage is arranged to decode said data signal encoded in conformity with a second
decoding method,

and wherein said first decoding method is Manchester (MA) and the second decoding
method is Miller; and wherein said decoding means further includes a decision stage
capable of determining based on said decoding instruction information which of the first
and second decoding stages is suitable to decode decodes the encoded data signal, and
wherein the decoding stage ~~instruction~~information includes redundancy data.

5-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

a transponder for performing the steps of:

receiving a modulated carrier signal having an encoded data signal, said encoded data signal including decoding step instructions;

generating an operating voltage from a power supply which receives power from the modulated carrier signal;

demodulating the modulated carrier signal in a demodulator and outputting the encoded data signal contained therein to a decoder;

decoding the encoded data signal and outputting data to a data processor;

processing the data output by the decoder;

wherein the decoding step includes a first physical decoding stage which decodes the encoded data signal in conformity with a first decoding method and a second physical decoding stage which decodes the encoded data signal in conformity with a second decoding method, wherein the first decoding method is Manchester (MA) and the second decoding method is Miller; and

wherein the decoding step further includes a decision stage which determines which of the first and second decoding stages decodes the encoded data signal, and, wherein the data is output by the first decoding stage to the data processor before the decision stage decides which of the first and second decoding stages is suitable for the decoding of the encoded data signal.

26. (Previously Presented) A ~~data carrier device~~ comprising:

a receiver designed to receive the modulated carrier signal which includes an encoded data signal;

a power supply capable of generating an operating voltage from a modulated carrier signal;

demodulator capable of receiving the modulated carrier signal and designed to output the encoded data signal included therein;

decoder designed to decode the encoded data signal

information and to output data;

data processor designed to process the output data from the decoder and powered by the power supply; and

wherein the decoder includes a first decoding stage and a second decoding stage, the first decoding stage designed to decode the encoded data signal which is encoded in conformity with a first encoding method and the second decoding stage designed to decode the encoded data signal encoded in conformity with a second encoding method, wherein said first encoding method is No-Return-To-Zero (NRZ) and second encoding method is Miller, and, wherein

said encoded data signal has a structure that ensures that time intervals with high amplitude value of the modulated carrier signal are substantially at least as long as time intervals with low amplitude value of the modulated carrier signal.

27-33 (Cancelled)